

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## REED SAYS RECENT INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD COMMITTEE MEETING PROMISES GREATER U.S.-CANADA COOPERATION

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed, who heads the Department's programs for fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreation, said today that the recent meeting of the International Migratory Bird Committee, the first since 1969, promises renewed and increased cooperation between the United States and Canada in the management of the North American migratory bird resource.

The Committee, which met October 23 in Washington, is composed of high-ranking wildlife officials of the two countries. Heading the list of U.S. delegates who attended the recent session, in addition to Reed, were Lynn Greenwalt, Director of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service; Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research and Education Robert Long, Department of Agriculture; and Associate Administrator Norman Berg, Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Attendance from Canada included Assistant Deputy Minister A. T. Davidson, Environment Canada; and Director General John Tener, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Reed said that delegates from both countries expressed concern for the future of North America's migratory birds, especially because of continuing loss of habitat.

An immediate specific concern is the unaccountable decline last year of the world's population of whooping cranes and reports of a poor nesting season this summer for the whoopers. The delegates agreed that a cooperative management plan, with emphasis on research, will be developed in an effort to improve the situation for these cranes which nest in Canada and winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

"Meetings of this Committee will be more frequent in the future," Reed said. "We think it is an important means of establishing better day-to-day working relationships with the Canadians in many vital conservation programs."

Since it was formed in 1961, the Committee has met 14 times, alternating between the United States and Canada. An invitation to join the Committee has been issued to Mexico.